



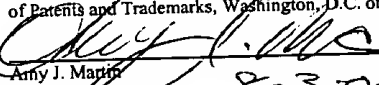
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August 3, 2000

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Amy J. Martin
Date of Signature 8-3-00

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/603,323
for MANUFACTURE OF WEB SUPERABSORBENT POLYMER
Our File No. 1179/2/2

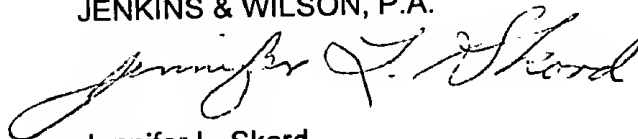
Sir:

Please find enclosed in connection with the subject U.S. patent application the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (8 pages);
2. Forms PTO/SB/08A (5 pages) and PTO/SB/08B (1 page), both in duplicate;
3. Copies of cited references (92 references); and
4. A return-receipt postcard to be returned to us with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office filing stamp thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.


Jennifer L. Skord
Registration No. 30,687

JLS/ajm

Enclosures



Amey J. Murphy
Date of Signature

8-3-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sun et al.

Serial No.: 09/603,323

Group Art Unit:

Filed: June 26, 2000

Docket No.: 1179/2/2

#2

For: MANUFACTURE OF WEB SUPERABSORBENT POLYMER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, applicants' undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the following references. Copies of the references as well as Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are attached hereto. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

U.S. Patent No. 4,076,663 to Masuda et al. discloses water absorbing starch resins.

U.S. Patent No. 4,260,443 to Lindsay et al. discloses a laminated absorbent process.

U.S. Patent No. 4,270,977 to Herman et al. discloses a process for preparing water sorptive products.

U.S. Patent No. 5,409,771 to Dahmen et al. discloses aqueous-liquid and blood-absorbing powdery reticulated polymers, a process for producing the same and their use as absorbents in sanitary articles.

U.S. Patent No. 4,286,082 to Tsubakimoto et al. discloses an absorbent resin composition and a process for producing same.

U.S. Patent No. 4,418,163 to Murakami et al. discloses a water absorbing composite comprising inorganic powder encapsulated with a crosslinked carboxyl polymer.

U.S. Patent No. 4,454,055 to Richman et al. discloses an absorbent composition of matter, a process for preparing same and an article prepared therefrom.

U.S. Patent No. 4,467,012 to Pedersen et al. discloses a composition for absorbent film and a method of preparation.

U.S. Patent No. 4,550,033 to Boutin discloses free-flowing flakes of hydrophilic/water-soluble polymer gel.

U.S. Patent No. 4,552,618 to Kopolow discloses stabilized absorbent boards.

U.S. Patent No. 4,587,308 to Makita et al. discloses a method for producing improved water-absorbent resins.

U.S. Patent No. 4,600,458 to Kramer et al. discloses a method of making an absorbent laminate structure.

U.S. Patent No. 4,626,472 to Boutin discloses free-flowing flakes of hydrophilic/water-soluble polymer gel.

U.S. Patent No. 4,654,039 to Brandt et al. discloses hydrogel-forming polymer compositions for use in absorbent structures.

U.S. Patent No. 4,732,968 to Obayashi et al. discloses a process for granulating a water-absorbent resin employing (a) water, (b) inorganic powder and (c) surfactant in an inert solvent.

U.S. Patent No. 4,735,987 to Morita et al. discloses a method for manufacture of high-expansion type absorbent polymer.

U.S. Patent No. 4,758,617 to Tanioku et al. discloses a process for preparing water-absorbing resin.

U.S. Patent No. 4,833,198 to Stanley, Jr. et al. discloses a suspending agent for the suspension polymerization of water-soluble monomers.

U.S. Patent No. 4,865,596 to Weisman et al. discloses composite absorbent structures and absorbent articles containing such structures.

U.S. Patent No. 4,914,066 to Woodrum discloses pellets of clay and superabsorbent polymer.

U.S. Patent No. 4,929,502 to Giglia discloses fibrillated fibers and articles made therefrom.

U.S. Patent No. 4,950,264 to Osborn, III discloses a thin, flexible sanitary napkin.

This is one of the priority cases for EP Application Publication No. 0 336 578 A1, mentioned below.

U.S. Patent No. 4,977,192 to Martineu et al. discloses a polymer composition charged with powdered mineral material with a high capacity of water absorption.

U.S. Patent No. 4,986,882 to Mackey et al. discloses absorbent paper comprising polymer-modified fibrous pulps and a wet-laying process for the production thereof.

U.S. Patent No. 5,009,653 to Osborn, III discloses a thin, flexible sanitary napkin. This is one of the priority cases for EP Application Publication No. 0 336 578 A1, mentioned below.

U.S. Patent No. 5,087,656 to Yoshinaga et al. discloses a highly water-absorbent powdery polymer composition.

U.S. Patent No. 5,093,130 to Fujii et al. discloses powder coated hydrogel capsules.

U.S. Patent No. 5,096,944 to Itou et al. discloses a process for preparing particles of high water-absorbent resin.

U.S. Patent No. 5,145,906 to Chambers et al. discloses a super-absorbent polymer having improved absorbency properties.

U.S. Patent No. 5,147,343 to Kellenberger discloses absorbent products containing hydrogels with ability to swell against pressure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,147,921 to Mallo discloses new powdered superabsorbents,

U.S. Patent No. 5,160,789 to Barcus et al. discloses fibers and pulps for papermaking based on the chemical combination of poly(acrylate-co-itaconate), polyol and cellulosic fiber.

U.S. Patent No. 5,217,445 to Young et al. discloses absorbent structures containing superabsorbent material and a web of wetlaid stiffened fibers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,300,192 to Hansen et al. discloses wet laid fiber sheet manufacturing with reactivatable binders for binding particles to fibers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,308,896 to Hansen et al. discloses particle binders for high bulk fibers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,383,869 to Osborn, III discloses a thin, flexible sanitary napkin.

U.S. Patent No. 5,422,169 to Roe discloses absorbent structures containing specific particle size distributions of superabsorbent hydrogel-forming materials in relatively high concentrations.

U.S. Patent No. 5,447,977 to Hansen et al. discloses particle binders for high bulk fibers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,453,323 to Chambers et al. discloses a superabsorbent polymer having improved absorbency properties.

U.S. Patent No. 5,496,626 to Hamajima et al. discloses absorbent paper and an absorbent article provided therewith.

U.S. Patent No. 5,509,914 to Osborn, III discloses a thin, flexible sanitary napkin.

U.S. Patent No. 5,538,783 to Hansen et al. discloses non-polymeric organic binders for binding particles to fibers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,543,215 to Hansen et al. discloses polymeric binders for binding particles to fibers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,549,589 to Horney et al. discloses a fluid distribution member for absorbent articles exhibiting high suction and high capacity.

U.S. Patent No. 5,571,618 to Hansen et al. discloses reactivatable binders for binding particles to fibers.

particles.

PCT International Publication No. WO 92/02596 which is in Russian (and its counterpart European Patent Application Publication No. 0 495 108 A1 which is in English and this constitutes a translation) disclose a water-swelling polymer-mineral composite and a method of obtaining it.

PCT International Publication No. WO 92/15741 discloses a method of densifying crosslinked fibers.

PCT International Publication No. WO 93/17066 discloses absorbent polymers and their production.

PCT International Publication No. WO 93/21879 discloses a generally thin, flexible sanitary napkin with stiffened center.

PCT International Publication No. WO 93/24153 discloses surface treated absorbent polymers.

PCT International Publication No. WO 96/12849 discloses a nonwoven material containing a mixture of pulp fibres and long hydrophilic plant fibres and a method of producing the nonwoven material.

PCT International Publication No. WO 96/23474 discloses an absorbent article with fractionation member.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 336 578 A1 discloses a thin, flexible sanitary napkin.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 339 461 A1 discloses absorbent products containing hydrogels with ability to swell against pressure.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 359 615 A1 discloses manufacture of superabsorbent composite structures.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 437 816 A1 discloses a superabsorbent wet-lay nonwoven product.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 483 816 A1 discloses a hydraulically needled nonwoven pulp fiber web, a method of making same and a use of same.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 516 925 A1 discloses wrinkled absorbent particles of high effective surface area having fast absorption rate.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 530 438 A1 discloses a superabsorbent polymer having improved absorbency properties.

European Patent Application Publication No. 0 641 885 A1 discloses a wet nonwoven cloth and a method of manufacturing the same.

Canadian Patent No. 2,008,323 discloses aggregates of water-swellable polymers and a method for producing them, and aggregates having increased hydration rate over unassociated water-swellable polymers.

Canadian Patent No. 2,042,183 discloses absorbent polymers, their manufacturing process and their use.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 01024808 A discloses reducing residual monomer in hydrophilic macromolecular polymer.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 01178509 A discloses preparation of water-absorbable resin.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 02052057 A discloses pulverising highly water absorbing resin.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 03045799 A discloses neutral paper production.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 03296592 A discloses cooling material for health or food industry.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 06000370

A discloses a water-absorbing agent.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 06016822

A discloses water absorbing resin particles production used for diapers and napkins.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 06158581

discloses a wet nonwoven fabric having high uniform water absorbency.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 06263881

A discloses granulating highly water-adsorbable resins.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63143906

A discloses a dehydration sheet, for selective dehydration of fresh food.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 07025935

A discloses manufacturing water absorbable polymer for disposable diapers, etc.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 08092454

A discloses hydrophilic polymer powder composition for preventing fluidity reduction.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 08217909

A discloses manufacture of water absorbing resin compositions for sanitary goods.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 59080459

A discloses a water absorbing resin powder composition.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 59192710

A discloses a water absorbing fibrous composite material.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 61141760

A discloses a high water absorbing gelling agent.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 62243648

A discloses a fibre particle powder.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 62254841

A discloses production of highly swelling water absorptive polymer.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63105064

A discloses a highly water absorptive resin composition.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63146901
A discloses a reversed phase suspension polymerisation.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63210109
A discloses water retention agents, for sanitary materials or agricultural use.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63216742
A discloses a coat layer for writing on synthetic and metal products.

English language Abstract only of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63279724
A discloses a granular culture soil with good water-absorbence.

United Kingdom Patent Application Publication No. GB 2 293 388 A discloses a
liquid absorbent comprising internal spaces providing swelling capacity for binding liquid
harmful materials.

Journal Article by Buchholz, "Keeping Dry with Superabsorbent Polymers",
Chemtech, (September, 1994) discloses use for polyacrylate formulations ranging from
diapers to optical fiber coatings to construction sealants.

Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Although it is believed that no fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized
to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this Information
Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Date: August 3, 2000

By:


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1179/2/2 JLS/ajm

Enclosures

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

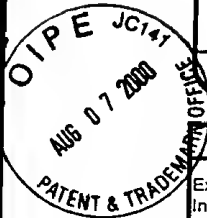
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Sheet 1 of 5

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/603,323
Filing Date	06/26/2000
First Named Inventor	Fang Sun
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1179/2/2

Paper No. 2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	4,076,663		Masuda et al.	02/28/1978	
	A2	4,260,443		Lindsay et al.	04/07/1981	
	A3	4,270,977		Herman et al.	06/02/1981	
	A4	5,409,771		Dahment et al.	04/25/1995	
	A5	4,286,082		Tsubakimoto et al.	08/25/1981	
	A6	4,418,163		Murakami et al.	11/29/1983	
	A7	4,454,055		Richman et al.	06/12/1984	
	A8	4,467,012		Pedersen et al.	08/21/1984	
	A9	4,550,033		Boutin	10/29/1985	
	A10	4,552,618		Kopolow	11/12/1985	
	A11	4,587,308		Makita et al.	05/06/1986	
	A12	4,600,458		Kramer et al.	07/15/1986	
	A13	4,626,472		Boutin	12/02/1986	
	A14	4,654,039		Brandt et al.	03/31/1987	
	A15	4,732,968		Obayashi et al.	03/22/1988	
	A16	4,735,987		Morita et al.	04/05/1988	
	A17	4,758,617		Tanioku et al.	07/19/1988	
	A18	4,833,198		Stanley, Jr. et al.	05/23/1989	
	A19	4,865,596		Weisman et al.	09/12/1989	
	A20	4,914,066		Woodrum	04/03/1990	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B1	wo	92/02596		Grigorian et al.	02/20/1992		X
	B2	wo	92/15741		Sultze et al.	09/17/1992		X
	B3	wo	93/17066		Johnson	09/02/1993		X
	B4	wo	93/21879		Osborn, III	11/11/1993		X
	B5	wo	93/24153		Graham	12/09/1993		X
	B6	wo	96/12849		Holm et al.	05/02/1996		X
	B7	wo	96/23474		Hammons et al.	08/08/1996		X
	B8	EP	0 336 578		Osborn, III	10/11/1989		X
	B9	EP	0 339 461		Kellenberger	11/02/1989		X
	B10	EP	0 359 615		Makoul et al.	03/21/1990		X

For the JP Patent Publications, the JP Patent Publication is not enclosed, but only an English language Abstract is enclosed.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Sheet 2

of 5

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/603,323
Filing Date 06/26/2000
First Named Inventor Fang Sun
Group Art Unit
Examiner Name
Attorney Docket Number 1179/2/2

#2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A21	4,929,502		Giglia	05/29/1990	
	A22	4,950,264		Osborn, III	08/21/1990	
	A23	4,977,192		Martineu et al.	12/11/1990	
	A24	4,986,882		Mackey et al.	01/22/1991	
	A25	5,009,653		Osborn, III	04/23/1991	
	A26	5,087,656		Yoshinaga et al.	02/11/1992	
	A27	5,093,130		Fujii et al.	03/03/1992	
	A28	5,096,944		Itou et al.	03/17/1992	
	A29	5,145,906		Chambers et al.	09/08/1992	
	A30	5,147,343		Kellenberger	09/15/1992	
	A31	5,147,921		Mallo	09/15/1992	
	A32	5,160,789		Barcus et al.	11/03/1992	
	A33	5,217,445		Young et al.	06/08/1993	
	A34	5,300,192		Hansen et al.	04/05/1994	
	A35	5,208,896		Hansen et al.	05/03/1994	
	A36	5,383,869		Osborn, III	01/24/1995	
	A37	5,422,169		Roe	06/06/1995	
	A38	5,447,977		Hansen et al.	09/05/1995	
	A39	5,453,323		Chambers et al.	09/26/1995	
	A40	5,496,626		Hamajima et al.	03/05/1996	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B11	EP	0 437 816		Kim	07/24/1991		X
	B12	EP	0 483 816		Barnes et al.	05/06/1992		X
	B13	EP	0 495 108		Grigorian et al.	07/22/1992		X
	B14	EP	0 516 925		Stanley et al.	12/09/1992		X
	B15	EP	0 530 438		Chambers et al.	03/10/1993		X
	B16	EP	0 641 885		Mizukami et al.	03/08/1995		X
	B17	CA	2,008,323		Tai	07/24/1990		X
	B18	CA	2,042,183		Mallo	11/15/1991		X
	B19	JP	01024808		Arakawa Kagaku Kogyo KK	09/23/1993		X
	B20	JP	01178509		Saotome K	09/23/1993		X

For the JP Patent Publications, the Jp Patent Publication is not enclosed, but only an English language Abstract is enclosed.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/603,323
Filing Date	06/26/2000
First Named Inventor	Fang Sun
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1179/2/2

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Sheet	3	of	5
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B21	JP	02052057		Rikagaku Kankyusho	09/28/1993		X
	B22	JP	03045799		Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd	09/28/1993		X
	B23	JP	03296592		Nippon Shokubai Co Ltd	10/06/1993		X
	B24	JP	06000370		Nippon Shokubai Co Ltd	03/22/1994		X
	B25	JP	06016822		Sekisui Plastics Co Ltd	04/18/1994		X
	B26	JP	06158581		Kanebo Ltd.	06/07/1994		X
	B27	JP	06263881		Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co Ltd	12/12/1994		X
	B28	JP	63143906		Hayashikane Shipbuilding	06/16/1988		X
	B29	JP	07025935		Idemitsu Petrochem Co	04/12/1995		X
	B30	JP	08092454		Sanyo Chem Ind Ltd	06/18/1996		X

the JP Patent Publication is not enclosed, but

B29	JP	07025935	Sanyo Chem Ind Ltd	06/18/1996
B30	JP	08092454		

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Considered

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number of the patent document. * Kind of document by its appropriate number. ** If English language Translation is attached, please indicate the number of the translation document. *** Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. possible. § Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. possible.

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Sheet 4

of 5

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Application Number	09/603,323
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Application Number	06/26/2000
Filing Date	06/26/2000

Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Fang Sun

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name _____

Attorney Docket Number	1179/2/2
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B31	JP	08217909		Arakawa Chem Ind Ltd	11/04/1996		X
	B32	JP	59080459		Arakawa Kagaku Kogyo KK	09/25/1993		X
	B33	JP	59192710		Toray Ind Inc	09/25/1993		X
	B34	JP	61141760		Miyata Kogyo KK	09/22/1993		X
	B35	JP	62243648		Kajiwarra H	09/22/1993		X
	B36	JP	62254841		Osaka Yuki Kagaku	09/22/1993		X
	B37	JP	63105064		Nippon Synthetic Chem Ind Co	09/23/1993		X
	B38	JP	63146901		Shiraishi Chuo Kenkyusho KK	09/23/1993		X
	B39	JP	63210109		Kanae Kagaku Kogyo KK	09/23/1993		X
	B40	JP	63216742		Newton KK	09/23/1993		X
The JP Patent Publication is not enclosed, but								

B39 JP	63216169	Newton KK	09/23/1995
B40 JP	63216742		

For the JP Patent Publications, the JP Patent Publication is not enclosed, but only an English language Abstract is enclosed.

	Date	
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number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbol. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

Complete if Known

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	5	of	5
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Application Number	09/603,323
Filing Date	06/26/2000
First Named Inventor	Fang Sun
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1179/2/2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/603,323
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Filing Date	06/26/2000
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First Named Inventor	Fang Sun
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Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number	1179/2/2
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OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

17

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BUCHHOLZ, "Keeping Dry with Superabsorbent Polymers," Chemtech, p. 38-43, (August 2, 1994).

1

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U. K. RAJGURU

Date
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